

**Department of Historic Resources  
Reconnaissance Level Survey**

**Accomack**

**DHR Id#: 001-0027-0019**

**Resource Identification**

Property Name(s): ..... WFF # D-012D - Sewage Treatment Plant Sludge  
Drying Bed {Historic}  
Property Date: ..... 1944  
Address(s): ..... Reeder Road {Current}  
County/Independent City: Accomack  
Vicinity of: ..... Chincoteague  
State, Zip: ..... Virginia 23337  
USGS Quad Name: ..... CHINCOTEAGUE WEST  
Surrounding area: ..... Rural

**National Register Eligibility Status**

Property is Historic (50 years or older)

**Resource Description**

Ownership Status: ..... Public - Federal  
Acreage: ..... 0.5

**Primary Resource Exterior Component Description:**

<u>Component</u>	<u>Comp Type/Form</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Material Treatment</u>
Foundation	Foundation - Slab	Concrete	Foundation - Poured
Foundation	Porch - None		
Structural System	Structural System - Masonry	Concrete	Structural System - Block
Chimneys	Chimneys - None		

Site Description: ..... Located within the Sewage Treatment Plant complex on north side of Reeder Road. Located in a level area, near the center of the complex at the top of a slope.

**WUZIT Count:**

<u>No.</u>	<u>Wuzit Types</u>	<u>Historic?</u>
1	Public Works	Historic

**NR Resource Count:**

**Individual Resource Information**

WUZIT: ..... Public Works

<u>Est. Date of Construction:</u> ....	1944 {Owner/written data}	<u>Accessed?</u> .....	Yes
<u>Primary Resource?</u> .....	Yes	<u>Number of Stories:</u> .....	0.0
<u>Architectural Style:</u> .....	Other	<u>Condition:</u> .....	Deteriorated
<u>Interior Plan Type:</u> .....	Other	<u>Threats to Resource:</u> .....	Deterioration Neglect

**Description:** The structure is a large, almost square-shaped basin composed of concrete blocks and sunken into the ground. The square is divided in half by an interior concrete block wall. The top edges of the walls are parged with cement to prevent moisture intrusion. A floor is no longer visible, though a rough, broken rim that runs around the interior base of the walls indicates that there once may have been a poured concrete floor that has since collapsed. A pattern of bare areas in the vegetation that now grows within the structure indicates there were divisions within the two rectangular half sections. A metal drainpipe is located near the top of the east wall in the northeast corner.

**Cemetery Information**

**Bridge Information**

**National Register Eligibility Information**

Historic Context(s): ..... Military/Defense

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*Historic Time Period(s):*..... Q- World War I to World War II (1914-1945)

*Significance Statement:* This structure was built in 1944 and was used as a sludge drying bed. The structure is part of a sewage treatment plant, one of two such complexes built on Chincoteague Naval Auxiliary Air Station (CNAAS) during World War II. The structure appears on a 1942 drawing entitled "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" by Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan, grouped with other buildings and structures of the "Sewage Plant." It is identified as "D-12D" on the 1950 "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" prepared by the U.S. Navy. The 1953 "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" prepared by the U.S. Navy identifies the structure as "Sludge Dr. Beds – Sewage Disposal Plant." The structure is located roughly in the center of the sewage treatment plant, to the west of the Primary Sediment Tank (001-0027-0018, WFF # D-12C) and to the south of the Sludge Digestion Tank (001-0027-0020, WFF # D-12E). The structure does not appear to be in use.

The utilitarian structure is a component of a sewage treatment plant constructed at the end of the World War I to II (1917-1945) period. The treatment plant was built to service CNAAS. Established in 1943, CNAAS was used as a training base for Navy aircraft carrier squadrons that would be serving in the Pacific theater of World War II, and to enable Civil Air Patrol to conduct antisubmarine operations off the Atlantic coast. In 1946, the U.S. Navy expanded the mission of CNAAS to include the Naval Air Ordnance Test Station (NAOTS). By 1949, the U.S. Navy discontinued aircraft carrier training and in 1951 CNAAS became a Naval Air Facility, with a primarily research-based mission that corresponded with the mission of NAOTS until the base was closed in 1959. In 1959, the ownership of CNAAS was transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and was renamed Wallops Station. Although it does not appear to be in use currently, the structure has essentially retained its original use throughout its history on the base.

The Sewage Treatment Plant Sludge Drying Bed has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity, and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the removal of the majority of buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959) and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C, or D.

As an individual resource, it is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D as it is not associated with a significant event or individual at the local, state or national level; it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; nor does this property have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory.

The Sewage Treatment Plant Sludge Drying Bed retains its integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling. Although remaining in its historic location, the structure's integrity of setting and association has been adversely affected by the changes made to the surrounding environment of the base of which it was a part; by 2004, the majority of buildings of this period have been demolished, changing the historic character of the physical environment of the structure's historic context.

***Bibliographic Documentation***

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*Reference #: 1*

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Map

*Author:* ..... Giffels and Valet

*Citation Abbreviation:* .....

*Notes:* ..... Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan. "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1942.

*Reference #: 2*

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Map

*Author:* ..... U.S. Navy

*Citation Abbreviation:* .....

*Notes:* ..... "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1950.

*Reference #: 3*

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Map

*Author:* ..... U.S. Navy

*Citation Abbreviation:* .....

*Notes:* ..... "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1953.

**Ownership Information**

**Graphic Media Documentation**

<i>Medium</i>	<i>Depository ID #</i>	<i>Photo Depository</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>File Name</i>
35mm B&W	21528	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 13 & 15
35mm B&W	21541	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 24-27

**Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events**

*CRM Event # 1,*

*Cultural Resource Management Event:* ..... Reconnaissance Survey

*Date:* ..... 2004/07/99

*Organization or Person:* ..... URS Group

*VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event:* .. 2003-0571

*CRM Event Notes or Comments:* ..... 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

*CRM Event # 2,*

*Cultural Resource Management Event:* ..... Reconnaissance Survey

*Date:* ..... 2003/08/08

*Organization or Person:* ..... URS Group

*VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event:* .. 2003-0571

*CRM Event Notes or Comments:* ..... 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700  
Bethesda, MD 20814